

NSC BRIEFING

20 December 1960

FRANCE-ALGERIA

- I. Violent demonstrations in Algeria have aroused strong skepticism in France over chances for De Gaulle's program to unite Moslem and European factions.
- II. Nevertheless, support has increased for De Gaulle as only man capable of solving problem.
  - A. He is expected to win handily in France in 8 January referendum.
- III. In Algeria, however, vote outcome in doubt.
  - A. Massive settler opposition expected.
  - B. Many urban Moslems likely to heed Ferhat Abbas' 16 December "directive" to abstain.
  - C. Outcome may hang on which way army ~~support~~ <sup>throws its influence</sup> goes in rural areas.
- IV. Official press statements indicate De Gaulle may make new bid before 8 January for negotiations with FLN, despite army hostility.
- V. Rebel <sup>FLN</sup> leaders, encouraged by pro-FLN attitude of Moslem rioters in Algiers, are reported determined to reject any administration De Gaulle sets up in Algeria as result of referendum.
  - A. They insist that De Gaulle has no alternative but to negotiate directly with them.

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